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The Ultra-Modern Girl

By J. JEFFERSON FARJEON

AMONG the great changes of recent times, none has been greater or more sweeping in its effect than the transformation of womanhood.

A dozen years ago the Victorian girl, although referred to retrospectively, was not entirely a creature of the past. One found her here and there in the cities, and she lingered in the provinces in slightly greater numbers. While the majority of

that is, into this fresh conception of the status of womanhood? Even more important, is the fresh conception a good and a lasting one?

MALE writers from Mr. W. L. George upwards or downwards are apt to consider that they have explored and discovered all the secret depths of a woman's soul. Certainly I make no such claim, feeling indeed that there are innumerable



Geoff and Bill Wachter, of Napier
Deighton Studio, photo, Napier

men were not attracted to her, a minority could still kneel to her lavender and lace.

But now, though perhaps not quite extinct, she is practically prehistoric. She evokes man's interest, not his passion—just as a prehistoric monster in a museum evokes his curiosity and not his fear. And in her place has arisen an astonishing new woman, a creation of mushroom growth. A dozen years is nothing in the history of human development, and the growth of the modern girl, together with our acceptance of her, forms a miracle which puts wireless in the shade.

Do we accept her because we have to, or have men, by their own new attitude and requirements, called her into existence—forced her,

able depths of my own soul quite beyond my comprehension. There are, however, certain obvious expressions and tendencies in the modern girl which may be reviewed and commented on without any pretensions to subtlety.

Generally speaking, the modern girl has, during the past dozen years, either acquired or increased her regard for:—

- (a) Drinking and smoking;
- (b) Paint and powder;
- (c) Slang;
- (d) Pastimes demanding physical vigour;
- (e) Work, apart from the household variety;
- (f) Individual independence and freedom of action;

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